

Order 10789 of November 14, 1958, as amended, is further amended by inserting the words "Department of Health and Human Services" in the list of departments and agencies in section 21 of that order after the words "Department of Commerce."

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 20, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:17 a.m., October 23, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 22, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 24.

**Proclamation 7488—National
Character Counts Week, 2001**
October 22, 2001

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation was built on a foundation of sound moral principles. The heroes of American history responded to threats to their freedom by choosing to fight for these timeless principles, assuming duties that superseded their self-interest. The character of America's founders was exemplified in their willingness to risk death in resisting tyranny and securing liberty and independence. From the frozen soil of Valley Forge to the beaches of Normandy and the deserts of the Persian Gulf region, American soldiers have answered the call of patriotic duty at great personal cost.

Our Nation's character continues to define how we respond to those who threaten America's core principles of liberty, justice, and equality. We saw that character when, in the face of the terrible terrorist attacks of September 11, American firefighters, police officers, and airline passengers sacrificed their lives to save others. We saw it when people across our land donated blood for the victims. And we see it as the children of America donate dollars to help suffering Afghan children. These acts reveal that endur-

ing patriotism and faith are part of the fabric of America.

How our military is responding to these despicable attacks is also indicative of our national character. We are waging a war against terrorists who have hijacked their own peaceful religion in an attempt to justify their evil deeds. As we strike military targets, however, we also are dropping food, medicine, and supplies to relieve the suffering among the victims of the Taliban regime.

The manner in which we face these and other challenges in this war will continue to influence our country for generations to come. In fulfilling our mission with both compassion and courage, we show our children what putting American values into action means. Similarly, parents should teach their children by word and deed to understand and live out the moral values that we hold, such as honesty, accepting responsibility for our actions, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Places of worship, faith-based organizations, and other community groups also play an important role in helping to shape young hearts and minds. Government should cultivate a climate that supports families and organizations that seek to instill sound moral principles in their children. My Administration's Faith-Based and Community Initiative proposes a program that will ensure that faith-based and community caregivers are welcomed as partners in these efforts. In addition, my budget triples the funds available for character education in public schools. I have also proposed to extend Federal after-school funding to programs run by faith-based and community-based organizations.

During this week, we should reflect on the national character we inherited from our forefathers and on the obligation we now have to stand for morality and virtue in the face of evil and terror. Since September 11, our Nation has shown that we are prepared to respond to the evildoers who have attacked the principles for which we stand. Our national character shall guide us as we wage this war, and in that we know that evil will not triumph.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,
President of the United States of America,
by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 21 through October 27, 2001, as National Character Counts Week. I call upon the people of the United States to commemorate this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:37 a.m., October 29, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 23, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 30.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Transfer of Funds in Response to Terrorist Attacks of September 11

October 22, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I have authorized transfers from the Emergency Response Fund totaling \$1.7 billion for emergency recovery and response and national security activities listed in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. As provided in Public Law 107–38, \$1.6 billion of these funds will be made available to agencies 15 days from the date of this transmittal and \$71.4 million will be made available to the Department of Defense immediately.

These funds are in addition to the \$7.2 billion that I previously authorized for transfer and will allow our Government to continue to address the consequences—both at home and abroad—arising from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

On October 17th, I asked the Congress to provide \$20 billion in emergency funding for both defense and domestic needs related to the September attacks. I urge the Congress to enact these crucial resources without delay. The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 23. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the text of Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels' letter. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

October 23, 2001

The President. It's been my honor to brief key Members of the Senate and the House on our trip to the Far East. It was a very successful trip, in that we were able to have an honest dialog about the need to fight terror.

And the 21 nations—20 other nations represented there agreed with our country, and they appreciate our determination to fight and win the war against terror. They understand that an attack on America could have been an attack on them. And the cooperation was very strong and very evident, and I am most grateful.

And I am most grateful for the opportunity to share with the Members of the House and the Senate this essential—and I want to, first, thank Chairman Biden and Chairman Hyde and the other Members here for standing solidly with the administration to formulate and conduct a foreign policy that's in the best interest of our country.

It is oftentimes said that when it comes to foreign policy, partisanship stops, and that's exactly what has happened here at this table. I've had a lot of discussions with both